

Test the Technology Sessions Update

Great to see you at the Test the Technology sessions held recently. I know a few of you couldn't make the sessions, but I am hoping this update will keep you informed – please get back to me if you have any queries.

Box of Trix – We need your help

As you know, SEND Family Partnership hopes to hold a Box of Trix for parents and carers. It would contain example gadgets and gizmos that are specifically aimed at parents and carers of children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities. At the Test the Technology sessions we looked in more detail as to what was available. It was felt it may be better to start small with a selection of more “popular” items .. **but which ones do you feel should be included?** It's time to narrow it down! Jim, the Assistive Technology Commissioner, has listed those items that seemed to spark the most interest on both the sessions. These are listed on the Top 10 survey, [click here to download](#). We've added example pictures, a brief description, and web links as memory joggers for those who attended and for more information for those who couldn't make it.

Would you like to have a think about your top 10 gadget and gizmos. It would be much appreciated if you could let us know what your priorities would be by completing the Top 10 survey. If we could have it by 30th September 2016 please.

To view the latest catalogue from Easylink (which those of you who attended the sessions will recognise) [please download here](#). The useful links and apps factsheet is being added to all the time and can be downloaded [here](#).

During the sessions, Jim also mentioned numerous assistive technology videos that were being filmed for the Staffordshire Cares website. These have now been filmed and edited, [click here to view](#).

Any techno geniuses out there – we need your help! Social Stories made simple – Thursday 29th September 10-12 noon.

Following a suggestion at one of the Test the Technology sessions, about using the iMovie app, we would like to take up the digital theme for social stories. We were thinking of a small group who could get together and look at some self-help resources for the less technically confident. This would be an opportunity to get together, see what is out there already and look at the different ways to create personal and effective social stories through audio and video. Could you please get back to me if this is something you would like to work on and are available to meet up in Stafford on Thursday 29th September.

Carers App

Staffordshire County Council has teamed up with [Carers UK](#) to offer digital products and online resources with information and support for carers within Staffordshire. A

number of free apps can be downloaded to mobile phones and tablets through the below link. This includes an app that enables family members to coordinate activity around the person that they care for.

[Click here](#) to create an account to get free access to all the products and support resources.

Gadget Testers

Again following on from the Test the Technology Sessions, the owner of Easylink has reaffirmed he will look for new products for parents to test. They would also welcome any comments from people who are looking for solutions.

Feedback from your input... Easylink are currently starting work on a MemRabel3, which will have new features, including some of those the parents suggested when we met at the Newcastle Test the Technology session.

Marie

Marie Wood, SEND Family Partnership Officer

SEND Family Partnership (Information Advice and Support Service)
Eastgate House
Eastgate Street
Stafford
ST16 2NG
01785 356921 Tuesday - Friday
Email: marie.wood@staffordshire.gov.uk
www.staffordshire.gov.uk/spps